

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MEXICO 06718 01 OF 02 042245Z

ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 EB-07 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /078 W

-----042302Z 003751 /12

R 042233Z MAY 77

FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1927

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 MEXICO 06718

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAID, UNDP

SUBJECT: UNDP: COMMENTS OF ACTING RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVE
IN MEXICO ON FUTURE OF UNDP

REF: STATE 086320

1. UNDP ACTING RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVE IN MEXICO IS
U.S. CITIZEN MR. BEN GURMAN. POINTS IN PARAS 5 AND 6 OF
REFTEL WERE DISCUSSED WITH HIM AND HE WAS QUITE FORTH-
COMING IN HIS COMMENTS.

2. FOLLOWING POINTS WERE MADE BY GURMAN AND ARE KEYED
TO PARA 5 OF REFTEL:

(A) HE RECOGNIZES PROBLEM OF EVALUATION AND FEEDBACK
AND AGREES THAT MORE COORDINATION IS BOTH DESIRABLE AND
POSSIBLE. HE FEELS THAT PROLIFERATION OF SPECIALIZED
AGENCIES AND DIVERSE WAYS OF HANDLING AND STORING INFORMA-
TION IS MAJOR OBSTACLE AND SUGGESTS THAT SYSTEM COULD
USE SOME OUTSIDE ADVICE IN EFFORT OBTAIN UNIFORMITY. ON
POSITIVE SIDE, HE SUBMITS THAT THERE IS SOME EVALUATION
AND FEEDBACK TAKING PLACE NOW AND POINTS OUT THAT THERE
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 MEXICO 06718 01 OF 02 042245Z

IS CONSIDERABLE AMOUNT OF INFORMATION BEING FED INTO
HIS OFFICE WHICH USED FOR THIS PURPOSE. ON RELATED
SUBJECT, HE ALSO FEELS THAT MORE FOLLOW-UP EVALUATION IS
NEEDED ON COMPLETED PROJECTS. THIS IS BEING DONE FAIRLY
CONSISTENTLY ON INVESTMENT PROMOTION PROJECTS (WHICH
LEND THEMSELVES MORE EASILY TO MEASUREMENT IN QUANTITATIVE
TERMS), BUT IS RARELY DONE IN INSTITUTION-BUILDING

PROJECTS.

(B) PROBLEM OF COORDINATION IS TOUCHY SUBJECT. CONSENSUS REACHED IN 1970, FOLLOWING RECOMMENDATIONS MADE IN JACKSON REPORT, WAS THAT UNDP SHOULD BE COORDINATOR OF ALL UN DEVELOPMENT OPERATIONS. THIS IDEA NOW BEING CONFIDENTIAL

QUESTIONED BY SPECIALIZED AGENCIES AND IS IN FACT NOT BEING ADHERED TO, PRIMARILY DUE TO UNRELIABILITY OF UNDP FUNDS. FAO, FOR EXAMPLE, HAS NOW ESTABLISHED THEIR OWN TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FUND IN MEXICO, WHICH REPRESENTS CLEAR BREAK FROM TOTAL DEPENDENCY ON UNDP FUNDS. PROBLEM IS, HOWEVER, FOUND MORE AT THE HEADQUARTERS LEVEL THAN AT THE FIELD LEVEL. RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVE IN MEXICO IS USUALLY REGARDED AS COORDINATOR OF UN PROGRAMS, BOTH BY OTHER UN COMPONENTS AND BY MEXICAN GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS. BUT, GURMAN FEELS THAT IF THERE IS WIDE DISPERSION OF FUNDS AMONG SPECIALIZED AGENCIES, COORDINATION WOULD BECOME CONSIDERABLY MORE DIFFICULT AND VERY NEED FOR UNDP'S EXISTENCE COULD BE QUESTIONED.

(C) ON FUTURE ROLE OF UNDP IN COORDINATING AND ASSESSING OVERALL DEVELOPMENT NEEDS, GURMAN FEELS THAT UNDP CAN CONTINUE TO HANDLE COORDINATION AND ASSESSMENT OF UN FUNCTIONS. HE STRESSES, HOWEVER, THAT QUALIFYING REMARKS ARE IN ORDER. FIRST, IN ANY GIVEN COUNTRY IT IS THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT WHICH HAS REAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR COORDINATION AND ASSESSMENT OF OVERALL DEVELOPMENT NEEDS. CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 MEXICO 06718 01 OF 02 042245Z

UNDP IS ENCOURAGING GOVERNMENTS TO ASSUME THIS ROLE AND TO THINK IN LONGER TERMS. SECONDLY, TERM "OVERALL DEVELOPMENT" GOES FAR BEYOND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS THAT UNDP CONCERNED WITH; AND UNDP SHOULD NOT GO BEYOND CONCERN FOR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE. IT SHOULD NOT, FOR EXAMPLE, GET INVOLVED IN SUCH THINGS AS MAKING GENERAL ASSESSMENTS OF HOST COUNTRY'S ENTIRE ECONOMY. ALSO, UNDP WOULD BE OUT OF PLACE IN ATTEMPTING TO COORDINATE ALL BILATERAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS.

(D) ON QUESTION OF ACHIEVING MORE, AND MORE DEPENDABLE FUNDING, GURMAN ASSURES THAT UNDP WOULD BE DELIGHTED TO HAVE CONTRIBUTIONS OF LONGER TERMS. HE FEELS THAT INSISTENCE OF THE U.S. CONGRESS ON YEARLY REVIEWS, AND FACT THAT UNDP IS ONLY UN AGENCY WHICH ENTIRELY DEPENDENT ON VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS, PLACES IT IN MOST VULNERABLE POSITION. UNDP IS CURRENTLY ASSUMING A 14 YEARLY INCREASE IN ITS BUDGET, AND IF THE INCREASED FUNDS ARE NOT FORTHCOMING THERE WILL BE A VERITABLE CRISIS, AND

FURTHER DETERIORATION OF CONFIDENCE IN UNDP BY SPECIALIZED AGENCIES. GURMAN WAS VERY CHARY ABOUT PROSPECTS FOR OBTAINING ADDITIONAL OPEC CONTRIBUTIONS SINCE HE FEELS THEY WOULD ALWAYS BE TIED TO POLITICAL CONCESSIONS. HE FEELS CERTAIN THAT A LARGE OPEC CONTRIBUTION WOULD BE EXTREMELY TROUBLESOME. THE QUESTION BOILS DOWN TO: HOW MUCH WOULD UNDP BE WILLING TO SACRIFICE IN ORDER OBTAIN IT? ON THE QUESTION OF COST SHARING, IT IS DIFFICULT
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN
ADP273
CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MEXICO 06718 02 OF 02 042252Z
ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 EB-07 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /078 W
-----042302Z 003799 /12

R 042233Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1928
INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 MEXICO 06718

FOR MOST GOVERNMENTS TO SEE WHY 12 OF THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS MUST GO TO THE ADMINISTERING AGENCY FOR ADMINISTRATION COSTS. UNDP HAS THE CONTINUAL TASK OF DEMONSTRATING TO THEM THE ADVANTAGES OF USING UNDP ASSISTANCE RATHER THAN ATTEMPTING TO DO THE SAME JOB ALONE. AND, IN THIS REGARD, UNDP IS IN FACT ATTEMPTING TO USE NATIONAL CAPACITIES WHENEVER FEASIBLE. THIS IS FOLLOWING THEIR RECENTLY ADOPTED "NEW DIMENSIONS" APPROACH. THERE ARE SOME POLITICAL RISKS IN CONTRACTING LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS AND INDIVIDUALS, AND UNDP WAS PREVIOUSLY PROHIBITED FROM DOING IT. THEY HAVE NOW DECIDED THAT THERE ARE CONSIDERABLE ADVANTAGES IN USING LOCAL CAPACITIES IN SOME SITUATIONS.

(E) ON QUESTION OF WHETHER THERE SHOULD BE A SINGLE GENERAL UNDP FUND, GURMAN FEELS THERE DEFINITELY SHOULD BE. HE POINTS OUT THAT UNDP IS AIMED AT NO PARTICULAR

NARROWLY DEFINED GOAL AND HAS NO SINGLE PROGRAM OR SPECIALIZED AGENCY TO WHICH IT OWES ITS ALLEGIANCE. IT IS THEREFORE ORIENTED COMPLETELY TOWARD SERVING LEGITIMATE NEEDS OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT, WHATEVER THEY MAY BE.

3. GURMAN HAD THE FOLLOWING OBSERVATIONS ON POINTS

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 MEXICO 06718 02 OF 02 042252Z

DRAWN FROM PARA 6:

(A) AS TO WHERE UNDP SHOULD FOCUS ATTENTION, HE SAID THAT DECISION HAS ALREADY BEEN TAKEN TO PLACE MOST RESOURCES IN LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES. MANY OF MORE DEVELOPED LDC'S WILL BENEFIT FROM REGIONAL PROJECTS, WITH LATIN AMERICA BEING GOOD EXAMPLE. REGIONAL PROJECTS MAY INDEED BECOME TREND IN LATIN AMERICA. HE POINTS OUT THAT NOBODY IS CONSIDERING INCREASING THE SIZE OF THE PROGRAM IN MEXICO, FOR EXAMPLE, AND THAT INFLATIONARY EFFECTS WILL IN FACT RESULT IN REDUCTION IN FUNDING IN REAL TERMS. NEW DIMENSIONS CONCEPT OF UTILIZING NATIONAL CAPACITIES (PARA 2(D) ABOVE) WOULD ALSO BECOME MORE APPROPRIATE IN MORE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES, AS WOULD THE TCDC (TECHNICAL COOPERATION BETWEEN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES) PROGRAMS. THERE ARE, IN ADDITION, MANY AREAS OF SOPHISTICATED TECHNOLOGY IN WHICH UNDP WILL BE ABLE ASSIST MORE DEVELOPED LDC'S. AS FAR AS COST SHARING ASPECT, HE REPEATS THAT MAIN TASK FACING UNDP IS TO CONVINCE HOST GOVERNMENTS OF BENEFITS. NO MAJOR RESTRUCTURING IS REQUIRED FOR ASSISTANCE TO MORE DEVELOPED LDC'S, BUT ONLY SOME DEGREE OF REORIENTATION.

(B) AS FOR PROBLEM OF OVERBURDENING PAPERWORK, GURMAN SAID THAT MEETINGS OF GOVERNING COUNCIL WILL BE REDUCED FROM TWO TO ONE A YEAR. HE ALSO BELIEVES THAT REPORTING FROM MEETINGS COULD BE CONSIDERABLY LESS DETAILED. ANOTHER PROBLEM, TO WHICH HE OFFERS NO SOLUTION, IS REQUIREMENT FOR TRANSLATING ALL IMPORTANT DOCUMENTS INTO FIVE LANGUAGES.

(C) AS FOR THE CURRENT FOCUS ON COUNTRY PROGRAMS, HE FEELS THIS WILL CONTINUE TO BE PRIMARY BUT THAT COUNTRY PROGRAMS WILL BECOME MORE SIMPLE AND CONCISE. AS NOTED ABOVE, THERE IS GROWING EMPHASIS ON REGIONAL PROGRAMS IN SOME AREAS.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 MEXICO 06718 02 OF 02 042252Z

4. COMMENT: EMBASSY HAS REASON TO BELIEVE THAT GOM NOW CAREFULLY REVIEWING ALL MULTILATERAL PARTICIPATION FROM

VIEWPOINT OF COST-BENEFIT ADVANTAGES TO MEXICO. SPECIFICALLY, GOM IS FACTORING IN ITS FUTURE POSITION AS AN OIL EXPORTER AND ANY OBLIGATIONS WHICH MAY FOLLOW FROM THAT. WE HAVE THEREFORE DECIDED NOT TO APPROACH FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIALS ON SUBJECT MATTER AT THIS TIME. THOMPSON

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLICIES, INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS, DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 04-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977MEXICO06718
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770157-0041
Format: TEL
From: MEXICO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770596/aaaadeqx.tel
Line Count: 229
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 667e169b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 STATE 86320
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2645743
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: UNDP: COMMENTS OF ACTING RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVE IN MEXICO ON FUTURE OF UNDP
TAGS: EAID, PORG, MX, UNDP, (GURMAN, BEN)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/667e169b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009